

# Alaska Task Force RUS Program Overview

AK Task Force

Virtual

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Presented by:

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Field Staff Branch Chief



# Agenda

- USDA Rural Development Programs overview
- Alaska Summary Data
- ReConnect Program Introduction
- Regulation Overview
- Recommendations
- Q&A
- Resources



# Funding for Rural Broadband

- Telecommunications Infrastructure Loan Program
- Rural Broadband Program
- Community Connect Grant Program
- ReConnect Program



# Summary Data

Summary metrics for both rounds  
of ReConnect funding





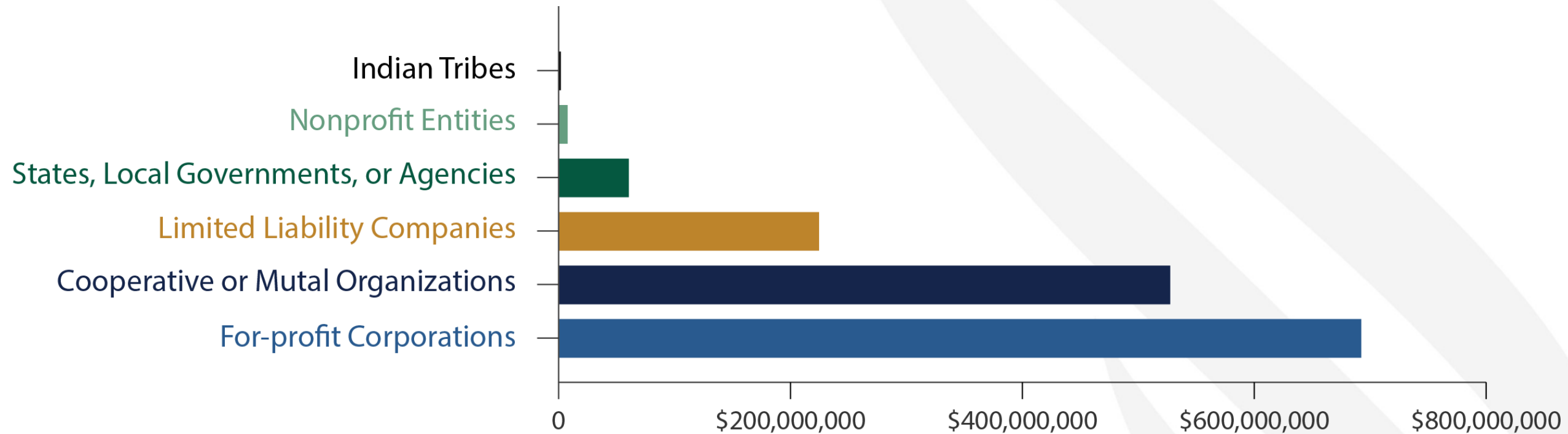
# Telecommunications Programs –Alaska Investments

**Since 2010, RUS has approved over \$225,296,362 million in projects serving Alaska residents:**

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Program	Projects Approved	Funds Awarded
Telecommunications Infrastructure Program	2* 1 pending	13,150,000/25,000,000
ReConnect Program	7	93,677,632
DLT	52* 4 pending	19,247,214/2,500,000
Community Connect	4* 3 pending	7,913,888/7,000,000
Broadband Initiatives Program	4	91,352,628

## Rounds 1 & 2: Awarded Amount by Entity Type



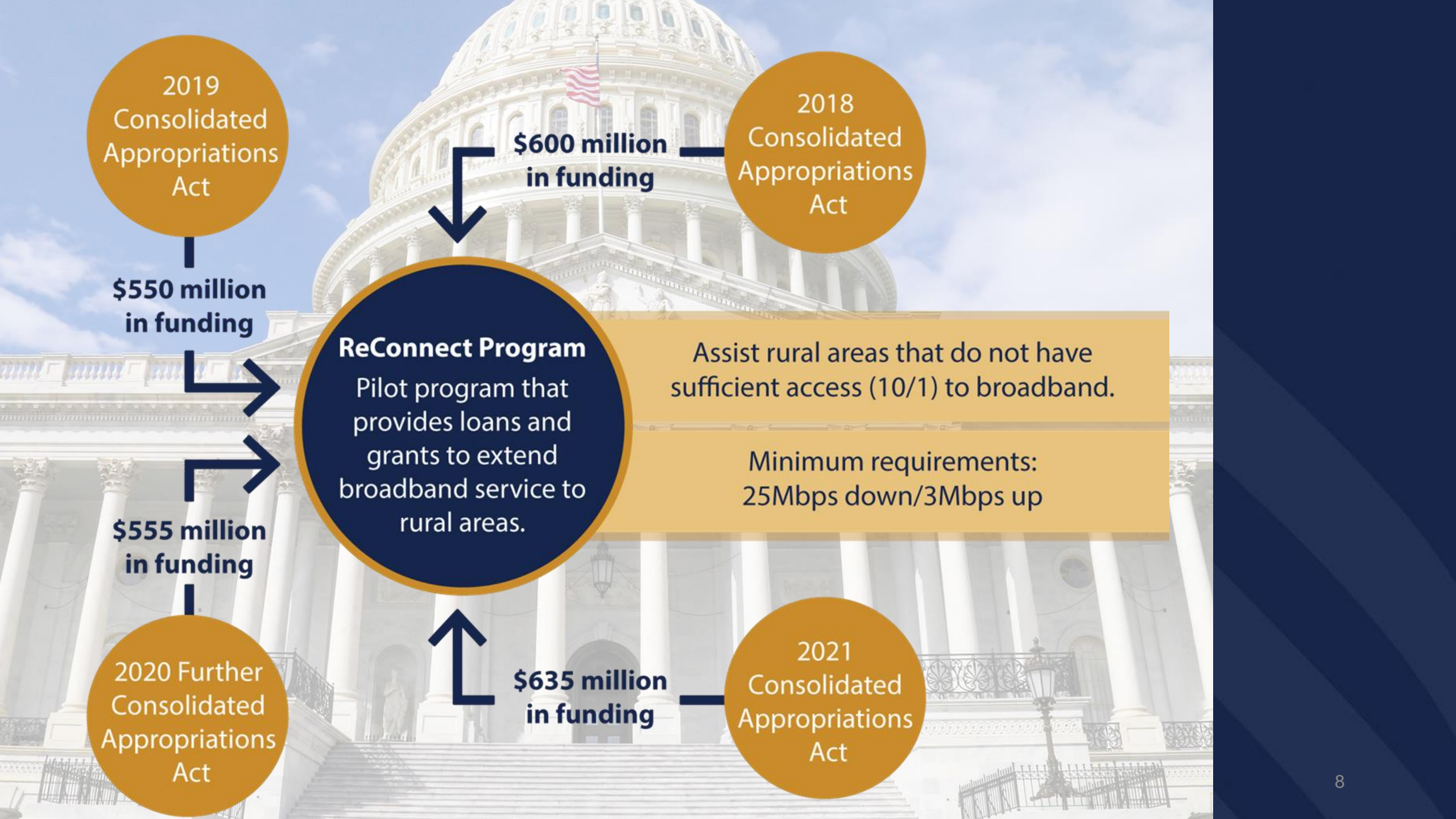
**Total Awarded Amount: \$1,509,997,454**

# ReConnect Program Introduction

ReConnect Program background  
and timeline









# ReConnect Program Regulation Overview



# Regulation Overview

- Codifies policies and procedures for the Rural eConnectivity Program (ReConnect Program)
- Issued as a Final Rule with comment on February 26, 2021
- Final Rule became effective April 27, 2021
  - Federal Register Number 2021-03443





# Funding Parameters



- Applicants must propose a network that can provide broadband service to every premise within the PFSA at the speed defined in the FOA at the same time
- Funding categories (loans, loan/grant, grants) will be established in the FOA

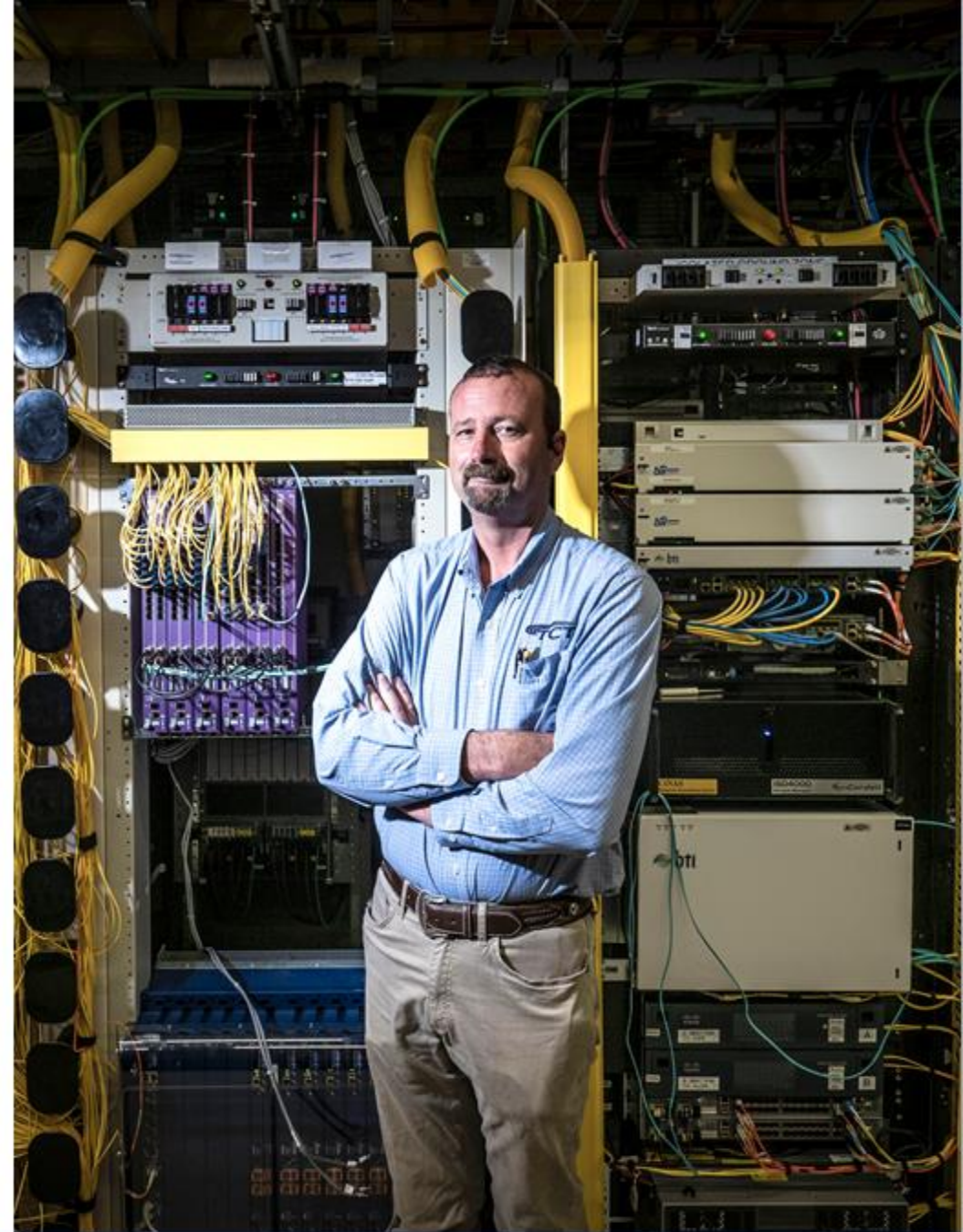
# Eligibility Requirements: Eligible & Ineligible Entities

- **Eligible:**

- ✓ Corporation
- ✓ Limited Liability Company (LLC) and Limited Liability Partnership (LLP)
- ✓ Cooperative or mutual organization
- ✓ States or local governments, including any agency, subdivision, instrumentality, or political subdivision thereof
- ✓ Territory or possession of the United States
- ✓ Indian tribe, as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act

- **Ineligible:**

- ✗ Individuals
- ✗ Legal partnerships formed with individuals
- ✗ Co-applicants





# Eligible Projects

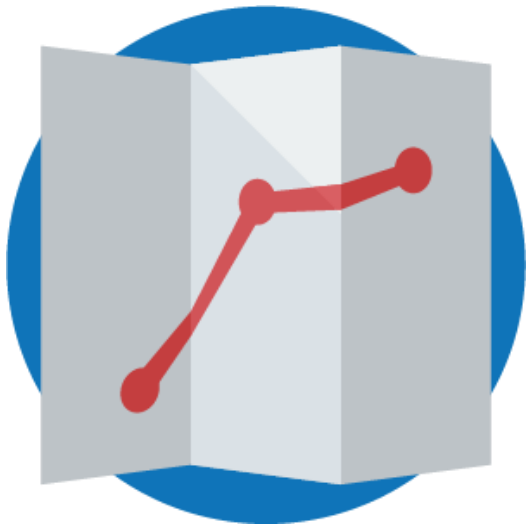
- **Eligible projects must:**
  - Submit a complete application, including **unqualified, comparative, audited financial statements** for the previous year from the date the application is submitted
  - **Timely Buildout Completion** within **five years** from the date funds are first made available
  - Demonstrate **Technical Feasibility**
  - All project costs can be **fully funded** or accounted for
  - **Financially Feasible and Sustainable**
  - Facilities with grant funds must **provide broadband service for the composite economic life of the facilities**
  - Facilities with loan funds must **provide broadband service through the amortization period of the loan**

# Eligible Cost Purposes

- **Eligible costs must be:**
  - Incurred post award (except approved pre-application expenses)
  - Consistent with 2 CFR 200, Subpart E, Cost Principles
  - Reasonable, allocable, and necessary to the project
- **Award funds may be used to fund:**
  - Construction or improvement of facilities required to provide fixed terrestrial broadband service, and any other facilities required for providing other services over the same facilities
  - Reasonable pre-application expenses (not to exceed 5% of award)
  - 100% loans only: Acquisition of an existing system that does not currently provide sufficient access to broadband for upgrading that system to meet the requirements of this regulation (not to exceed 40% of award)



# Eligible & Ineligible Service Areas



- **Eligible Service Areas:**

- Provide broadband service directly to all premises in the PFSA
- If any part of the PFSA is ineligible, RUS may request modification(s) or reject the application

- **Ineligible Service Areas:**

- Overlapping proposed project service areas
- 90% of the Proposed Funded Service Area (PFSA) must not have sufficient access to broadband service as defined in the FOA

## Eligible & Ineligible Service Areas (cont.)

- **Additional Considerations**

- Work with the Governor's office and tribal governments to submit information detailing where state funding has been provided
- Service areas that received federal grants or funds from the FCC to provide broadband service may be restricted from funding
- Additional service area restrictions may be identified in the FOA



# Application Submission & Evaluation

- Applications must be submitted through the online application system
- Applicants can only submit one application under any funding window
- **All applicants are required to:**
  - Register for a Dun and Bradstreet Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Number or other Government non-proprietary identifier
  - Register in System for Award Management (SAM)
  - Submit Commercial and Government Entity (CAGE) Code (obtainable through SAM)



# Recommendations

- Community Outreach and Coordination
- Incentivize Development
- Partnerships
- Bluster visibility
- Streamline State Reviews

# Available Resources

- **ReConnect Website**
  - <https://reconnect.usda.gov>
- **Rural Development eConnectivity Toolkit**
  - Rural Prosperity Taskforce - Launched February 6, 2019
  - <https://usda.gov/broadband>
- **For general inquiries, contact:**
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